

HONORING PEGGY COLLIER

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a local civil servant. Ms. Peggy Collier has served as a crossing guard at Highlands City Elementary School for forty years come this May of 2009, when she will retire. Ms. Collier began her career on May 1, 1969 and has since rarely missed a day of work. No matter the weather, almost nothing prevented this local Highway 98 icon from helping usher our children into their school day.

I wish to congratulate Ms. Collier for a long, successful career and I wish her well in retirement.

HONORING JOSH GREATHOUSE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Josh Greathouse a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Josh has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Josh has been involved with Scouting; he has not only earned numerous merit badges and performed volunteer work for soldiers, but has also earned the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Josh Greathouse for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
GENERAL WILLIAM F. PITTS**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, Lieutenant General William F. Pitts and his wife, Doris Pitts. Today, I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember these two incredible people who dedicated their lives in service to our country. On Tuesday, December 30, 2008, Lt. Gen. Pitts passed away at the age of 89. Doris followed eight weeks later on March 1, 2009.

Lt. Gen. Pitts' father was a career military officer. Lt. Gen. Pitts was born at March Field Hospital, located in Riverside, California, on Thanksgiving Day 1919. When he was 10 years old, Lt. Gen. Pitts took his first airplane ride and vowed to become an Air Force pilot. In 1943, he graduated from West Point and flew 25 World War II missions against Japan in a B-29 Superfortress. In his last mission in

the bomber, he was shot down off the coast of Japan but was able to parachute out of the plane and was rescued by a submarine.

After Lt. Gen. Pitts' heroic service during World War II, he was steadily promoted and earned three stars. He served as a NATO commander in Turkey, four tours at the Pentagon and also as a diplomat in Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, England and Taiwan. In 1972, Lt. Gen. Pitts returned to March Air Force Base as the Commander of the 15th Air Force. His military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with an oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Unit Citation Emblem with one oak leaf cluster and the Purple Heart.

In 1975, Lt. Gen. Pitts retired from the Air Force and he and his wife, Doris, made Riverside their permanent home in the 1990s. He was active in the March community during his retirement, helping to keep the base open during the Base Realignment and Closure process. In honor of his efforts, March erected a stone post at the parade grounds on the base. He was also a board member of the March Field Museum.

Doris Mansfield Pitts was born in New York City on January 17, 1924. She was the only daughter of Lillian and John Mansfield, a Spanish American War veteran and newspaper executive. She attended Barnard School in New York and worked for IBM during World War II. She met her husband at West Point and they were married following the war on December 22, 1948. She served her country as a supportive military wife, joining and complimenting her husband throughout his highly successful military career. Doris relocated her family settling in more than 15 locations during their time in the Air Force. Doris was a loving wife, mother of three daughters and grandmother to four grandchildren.

On December 22, 2008, Lt. Gen. Pitts celebrated his 60th anniversary with his wife Doris. Lt. Pitts and Doris are survived by their daughters Dale, Alisha and Linda; sister Nanetta Atkinson; and four grandchildren.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men like Lt. Gen. Pitts who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. In the case of Lt. Gen. Pitts, he was blessed to have the love and strength of his wonderful wife to help him along the way. Lt. Gen. Pitts and Doris Pitts were dear friends and above all, they were patriots. They will both be sorely missed but their legacy and service to our great nation will always be remembered.

HONORING JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of noted historian and visionary, John Hope Franklin.

I have a copy of Professor John Hope Franklin's book *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans* in my office. The manual has been an invaluable reference text for me for many years. It was one of my college textbooks while I was an undergrad at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Born in 1915 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, John Hope Franklin was the grandson of a slave. He went on to become one of the most prolific chroniclers of civil rights history in America.

Professor Franklin was just 4 or 5 years old when he witnessed the horror of the Tulsa Race riots of 1921. Under Chairman CONYER's Judiciary Committee, I was fortunate enough to meet Professor Franklin in 2007. He came to testify in a hearing before Congress urging the passage of legislation that would clear the way for survivors of the riots in the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa to sue. The hearing's main effort was to extend the statute of limitations survivors' claims.

John Hope Franklin was a graduate of Fisk University, a historically African-American university in my home State of Tennessee; he received his Ph.D. from Harvard University.

In 1956, Dr. John Hope Franklin became the first African-American Chairman of the History Department at the all-white Brooklyn College.

Dr. Franklin's research contributed to the success of Thurgood Marshall and the Legal Defense Fund. Officially, Dr. Franklin was a part of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund team that helped develop the historic *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* case that forever changed the face of public education in this country.

In 1982, he became the first African American professor to hold an endowed chair at Duke University.

In 1995, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in our country. Dr. Franklin received the National Freedom Award in 2007 from the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee for his influence over the state of civil and human rights in America.

Dr. John Hope Franklin has been honored by the nation's two oldest learned societies, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society.

John Hope Franklin integrated the African American narrative into the fabric of American history. He made us recognize that African American history is the history of all of us.

Currently the Judiciary Committee, Chairman CONYERS, and I are working on H.R. 1843, the John Hope Franklin Tulsa-Greenwood Race Riot Claims Accountability Act of 2009. H.R. 1843 provides that any Greenwood, Oklahoma, claimant (a survivor or heir/descendent of victims of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, Race Riot of 1921) who has not previously obtained a determination on the merits of a Greenwood claim may, in a civil action commenced within five years after enactment of this Act, obtain that determination. Simply put, this is the legislation that stemmed from the 2007 hearing where I met Professor Franklin. This legislation extends the statute of limitations for survivors and survivors' claims.

Thank you, John Hope Franklin.

HONORING DOMINIC PALUMBO FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the North Haven Democratic Town Committee as well as the many family, friends, and community leaders who have gathered to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our community and a man I am honored to call my friend, Dominic Palumbo. Entrepreneur, community leader, mentor, and friend, Dom has left an indelible mark on our community.

Dom has dedicated a lifetime of service to the town of North Haven, the State of Connecticut and our nation. Born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut, Dom joined the Merchant Marines and later the armed forces where he fought in both World War II and the Korean War. Upon his return from military service, Dom and his family settled in North Haven where he began a successful business, North Haven Ceramic & Tile, and soon became an institution in town.

There are few who demonstrate the depth of commitment to their community as Dom has over the years. When he made North Haven his home, he quickly became involved in local issues and is perhaps best known in town for his enduring presence on the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Planning and Zoning Commission is one of those local boards which have a significant impact on the town as its responsibilities include the oversight of the overall development of a community—balancing the often competing demands of expansion and the quality of life for its residents. Dom served on that board for more than thirty years, at least ten of which as its Chairman, and in doing so helped to shape the very character of his community as it has grown.

Dom's contributions stretch far beyond the town of North Haven. Over the course of his life he has been involved in countless service and civic organizations which include serving as Director of the Quinnipiac Council of the Boy Scouts of America, a supporter of the Special Olympics, a sponsor of several Little League and Midget Football teams, as well as a founding member of the North Haven High School Sports Hall of Fame. The myriad of awards, commendations, and honors that he has received from groups ranging from the Knights of Columbus to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society are a testament to the difference that he has made.

Dom has long been a political leader in the North Haven community. As a founding member of the town's Democratic Town Committee, Dom has spent long hours advising and supporting candidates as they seek elected office—in North Haven and across the state, at every level of government. As a long-time member of the Connecticut Democratic State Central Committee, he has also helped to shape Connecticut's Democratic Party. His commitment to public service and to improving his community has been an inspiration to candidates as they sought his guidance and direction.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to extend my sincerest thanks to Dom for his many years of special friendship.

Today along with his wife, Judith; his four children, Richard, Robert, Ronald and Raymond; and his four granddaughters, we pay tribute to Dominic Palumbo—a remarkable individual whose innumerable contributions have set an example of community service to which we should all strive.

HONORING MICHAEL ANGELO HARTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Angelo Harter a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Angelo Harter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker. Today, I wish to join with my friends, family, and colleagues as we remember the murder of more than 6 million Jews and others killed during the Holocaust. Their memory must be preserved and the atrocities committed by the Nazis and their accomplices must be noted in order to ensure that such crimes against humanity will never be repeated.

We should also take time to remember the millions of others systematically murdered by the Nazis, including Gypsies, Poles, the handicapped, homosexuals, Jehovah's witnesses, political dissidents and prisoners of war.

This year, we recognize in particular the one and a half million children who perished during the Holocaust. It is estimated that mere thousands survived. Many of the survivors still with us today were children during the Second World War and lost many friends and relatives. Decades later, the horrors of the Holocaust are still etched in their memory and they serve as a reminder of the vulnerability of children in times of war. We must ensure that we protect those in every corner of the world that cannot defend themselves.

More than 60 years have passed since the Holocaust, yet racism and anti-Semitism still exist in the world. The troubling events from this past week's United Nations Summit on Racism in Geneva reinforce even more the need to mark this day. Iranian President Ahmadinejad's remarks remind us that we

need to remain vigilant about hate and misinformation. He has repeatedly distorted facts and denied that the Holocaust even existed. As citizens of the world, we remain alert and ensure that dictators and despots are never again able to commit genocide against any people in any corner of the globe.

In honor of their memory and to protect generations to come, we must never forget.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOUTH- EAST ALASKA NATIVE LAND EN- TITLEMENT FINALIZATION ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, today I, along with my distinguished colleagues, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. BOREN and Mr. SHULER introduce the Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization Act. This legislation will redress the inequitable treatment of the Native Regional Corporation for Southeast Alaska, Sealaska Corporation, by allowing it to select its remaining land entitlement under Section 14 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, ANCSA, from designated Federal land in Southeast Alaska.

In 1971, Congress enacted ANCSA to recognize and settle the aboriginal claims of Alaska Natives. ANCSA allocated 44 million acres and nearly \$1 billion to Alaska's Native people, to be managed by the 12 Regional Corporations, including Sealaska, and more than 200 Village Corporations. While Sealaska is one of the Regional Corporations with the largest number of Native shareholders, with 21 percent of all original Native shareholders, Sealaska received the smallest Regional Corporation land settlement, which was less than 1 percent of the total of all ANCSA lands. Now, nearly four decades since ANCSA's passage, Sealaska is still without their full land entitlement.

It remains critical that Sealaska complete its remaining land entitlement under ANCSA to continue to meet the economic, social and cultural needs of its Native shareholders, and of the Native community throughout Alaska.

The Bureau of Land Management projects that Sealaska is entitled to receive between 355,000 and 375,000 acres pursuant to ANCSA. To date, over 35 years after ANCSA's enactment, Sealaska has secured conveyance of 290,000 acres. Accordingly, there are up to 85,000 acres remaining to be conveyed. However, ANCSA limits Sealaska land selections to withdrawal areas surrounding certain Native villages in Southeast Alaska. The problem is that there are no lands remaining in these withdrawal areas that meet Sealaska's traditional, cultural, historic, or socioeconomic needs, and certain portions of those lands should more appropriately remain in public ownership.

The selection limitations preclude Sealaska from using any of its remaining ANCSA land settlement to select places of sacred, cultural, traditional, and historic significance located outside the withdrawal areas that are critical to facilitate the perpetuation and preservation of Alaska Native culture and history. Moreover,